### 1. Community Building

Community Building emphasizes the bonds of community that link city dwellers to each other and to the neighborhoods they call home. Gathering places and programs that serve a wide range of resident interests are important tools and contributors to making communities strong. Mentorships, arts programs, youth initiatives and volunteer programs cultivate personal relationships among people from all walks of life. Other issues such as safety and security, challenging racism and discrimination and keeping the population healthy are critical to making Minneapolis a livable, vital city.

- 1.1 Minneapolis will promote opportunities and activities that allow neighbors and residents to get to know each other better.
- 1.2 Minneapolis will encourage both private and public development that provides gathering spaces in city neighborhoods.
- 1.3 Minneapolis will encourage public institutions to coordinate their programming and facilities in order to function as neighborhood centers.
- 1.4 Minneapolis will encourage activities that rely on coordinated programming and facilities use with community partners in the volunteer, nonprofit and private sectors.
- 1.5 Minneapolis will promote neighborhood-based arts activities.
- 1.6 Minneapolis will promote community-based initiatives in youth programming.
- 1.7 Minneapolis will recognize and celebrate its history.
- 1.8 Minneapolis will take steps to eliminate discrimination against protected classes and promote a wider understanding of the value of diversity in our community.
- 1.9 Minneapolis will work to enhance the appeal of city living by improving residents' actual and perceived sense of safety and security.
- 1.10 Minneapolis will continue to support community-based initiatives to assure safety and to prevent crime in neighborhoods.
- 1.11 Minneapolis will intensify law enforcement and secure more convictions for criminal offenses.
- 1.12 Minneapolis will ensure that public safety infrastructure adequately meets residents' needs.
- 1.13 Minneapolis will protect and improve residents' health by preventing disease, disability and vi olence.

#### introduction

How does one define a vibrant, healthy community? The idea has different meanings for different people. Well-being is defined not only by the economic prosperity people enjoy, but also by some of the more normal, day-to-day interactions and experiences they encounter. School, cultural celebrations, sporting events, social gatherings and work bring us together and enrich the quality of life we experience. A first-rate education for children, the condition of public parks and facilities, the environmental quality of waters and lands within the city's boundaries and the character of arts and cultural events that involve city residents all define some aspect of a community's wealth.

Residents look beyond their homes to their neighbors and the block they live on and realize that they share their concerns about the quality of life, the beauty and the safety of their surroundings with their neighbors. These are communities of place, focused on the physical qualities of a neighborhood. Yet the diversity of the city also generates more choices, so that as residents, workers or visitors, we can find a shared interest with others who may not be nearby. We look to these communities of interest, and find others whose values we share. Minneapolis is different from many of its neighbors in our diversity of opinions, values, backgrounds and aspirations--yet among us there are many common threads that bring us together. We gather to exchange ideas and opinions and discover that we share goals and mutual interests more often than we expect. From our encounters with our neighbors, co-workers, mentors, teachers, and friends we stitch together a quilt of commonalties and differences. The strength of the community we live in lies within these connections. Making it easier to identify shared interests among people from all walks of life is an important element of building community spirit. (See Map 1.1.1)

"The city is an ever-changing quilt of shared values and identities"

#### the city is a gathering place

The city has traditionally served as a gathering place for people and resources. Immigrants throughout the city's history have known it as a place of shelter, an opportunity to launch into a new culture and still maintain their connections to a community that offers support in the process of adapting to a new and foreign place. Building a sense of community relies on residents being able to share values and interests: most people who seek out these connections with others find they have the same desire to earn a living wage, live in peaceful neighborhoods, allow their children to play in safe parks close to home, enjoy high quality education and make use of recreational facilities that encourage people to play, learn or relax. Minneapolis has traditionally served as a gathering point for resources, entrepreneurs and immigrants. As the urban center of the Upper Midwest, it has a distinct cosmopolitan character and vast economic and cultural opportunities available to those ready for the challenge. City dwellers often identify with the smaller communities of like-minded people they encounter at home, at work or at school more than they do with the larger and more complex nature of the entire city. Yet the dynamism and pace of city living can often make it difficult for people to discover common ground. Relationships across the boundaries of race, family background and economic status are critical to forging a community that works. These personal connections often encourage people to participate in common projects, and to work collaboratively on issues that affect the wellbeing of the neighborhood and the city as a whole. Emphasizing the interests residents share encourages people to become involved in discussions and decision-making about values, goals, policy and shared objectives. (See Map 1.1.2)

# 1.1 Minneapolis will promote opportunities and activities that allow neighbors and residents to get to know each other better.

#### **Implementation Steps**

Expand block club activities to include social, educational, recreational and communication functions.

Support citizen participation in community-based activities involving planning and the delivery of city services.

Support commercial activities that provide neighborhood scale gathering places such as bookstores, art galleries, coffee shops and ice cream shops.

#### local institutions

Some of the traditional cornerstones of community identity in most American cities have been local institutions. Places of worship, schools, social and service clubs and philanthropic groups have historically played significant roles in the development of a community's character, influencing the neighborhood's identity, image and activity patterns. Although some of these institutions have faded from an active involvement in the shaping of community identity, many others have adapted their outreach efforts to the neighborhoods in which they reside. They are making a tremendous impact in response to the needs of neighbors to interact in mutually supportive ways. Park buildings, libraries, schools and community centers are public resources. They provide access to services and facilities across all boundaries, and contribute significantly to a community's well-being. Public agencies must maintain the greatest possible access to these spaces available throughout city neighborhoods. Yet as the profile of public spending and development changes, it will be increasingly important to also support investments originating in the private sector. Privately built spaces should be encouraged by providing incentives to developers to incorporate safe, welcoming, busy gathering spaces in new developments.

# 1.2 Minneapolis will encourage both private and public development that provides gathering spaces in city neighborhoods.

#### Implementation Steps

Increase resident access to and use of facilities and meeting spaces in parks, libraries, and schools.

Encourage not-for-profit institutions and places of worship to increase resident access to and use of facilities and meeting spaces.

Develop new facilities that act as gathering spaces in parks and on other publicly owned land.

Investigate needs for additional public land to create gathering places.

Encourage private developers to include gathering spaces in new developments.

Many of the city's neighborhoods already have natural 'centers' that reflect the interests and involvement of its most active members and act as the focus of neighborhood life. The character and programming of these centers reflect the household composition and interests of residents in different parts of the city. In some cases, the park and school complexes such as Four Winds, Marcy, Lind and Green Central will continue to be a focal point for neighborhood activity. In other cases, a library may serve as the activity center for a neighborhood. Still other areas in the city may find their 'neighborhood center' at a locally-owned shop, with the ever-present small business owner the most constant and familiar feature of that neighborhood.

## sharing common resources to strengthen neighborhood centers

Expanding the services and enhancing the condition of facilities operated by the Library Board, the School Board, or the Park Board will strengthen their roles as the focal points of neighborhoods. The end result could be a neighborhood center that offers courses ranging from after school youth programs to family-oriented recreational activity on the weekends, to library access and borrowing services, to neighborhood-sponsored cultural events or art projects such as mural painting and pocket art parks. By expanding school day and afternoon programming and extending hours at school facilities in partnership with other organizations, programs that are focused on promoting child development have a physical space to house these activities. A school site could become a multi-faceted learning center open to children, families and all other interested participants within the community outside of school hours. By defining itself as a place for socializing, learning and recreation for people from all walks of life, the neighborhood center as a public institution functions as a hub for many different kinds of activities firmly rooted in the community.

Starting in the 1950s, Minneapolis began to plan its parklands according to open space standards measured in terms of acres of parkland to persons, and also in terms of resident accessibility (each household should be between one-quarter to one-half mile from neighborhood playgrounds). By the 1960s, the Park Board endorsed a new construction plan that called for the construction of recreation buildings in both neighborhood and community parks. Most recently, the Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) has been directly involved in influencing and financing the pattern of new facilities development. The idea of co-locating a school next to a park, and implementing shared facilities agreements to make the building and grounds more accessible to more residents is not a new one, but it continues to be a very popular method of enhancing neighborhood and community amenities. The Whittier Gym and School site is just one of these examples, planned for and partially funded by NRP funds. However, proposed new facilities must continue to be evaluated on the basis of both citywide equity issues and long term staffing requirements. (See Map 1.1.3)

The presence of schools in city neighborhoods has traditionally been seen as another positive addition to neighborhood life. From the 1950s onwards planners proposed to locate elementary schools in the heart of each of the city's 81 neighborhoods. Junior high and senior high schools were clustered on the borders of the city's 11 communities (larger planning units consisting of collections of the 81 neighborhoods), to serve students across neighborhood boundaries. Most school sites since then have been chosen with a view to capitalize on the presence of neighboring park lands and maximize other resources whenever possible. When racial desegregation laws required busing and crosstown travel for many students, the city built larger elementary schools but maintained their connection to green spaces as much as possible. School populations have expanded and contracted significantly over the last decades, mirroring demographic patterns in society at large. Starting in the late 1970s, many of the older and smaller schools were decommissioned as the number of students declined. Yet the rate of population growth over the last decade has caused a steady increase in the demand for school space. A community schools planning initiative underway in the School District since 1993 will strengthen the connections between a school site and its surrounding neighborhoods. Guaranteed attendance areas for existing community schools and specialized curriculum magnet schools offer families an opportunity to become much more involved with student academic and extracurricular activities. The community schools initiative is committed to providing students and their families with the choice of attending a school close to their home. The program recreates existing school attendance areas and has also pledged to

1.1.2 The Minneapolis Plan

build new community schools when needed. Most of the projected need over the next years will be focused on areas with a high concentration of youth and children of school age, particularly at the K-8 school level. However, building new facilities and maintaining existing ones is an expensive and resource intensive task. Location and facilities investment decisions concerning schools will continue to be mindful of financial and space constraints, yet work in partnership with other public and nonprofit partners to maximize public resources that are invested in the wellbeing of the community. (See Maps 1.1.4)

# 1.3 Minneapolis will encourage public institutions to coordinate their programming and facilities in order to function as neighborhood centers.

#### Implementation Steps

Expand collaborative planning for programming and facilities-sharing agreements among colleges, early childhood and K-12 schools, libraries and parks.

Expand the opportunities based at schools to include parks programming, library borrowing, health-related services where appropriate and continuing education activities to all residents.

Coordinate park transportation alternatives with Minneapolis Public Schools to make parks more accessible to sudents.

Evaluate opportunities for commercial activities in public facilities, such as small restaurants, vendors or coffeehouses, or seasonal equipment rental.

Include community-oriented functions such as NRP, Inspections, CCP/SAFE, etc. in addition to traditional police functions in precinct stations.

Just as important in pursuing the neighborhood center concept is the need to engage the private and non-profit sectors. Private sector partnerships that get businesses involved with the local community through sponsorships, mentorships and other efforts at community outreach can provide opportunities for learning, enrichment and entertainment in areas under-served by public facilities.

Every effort should be made to expand the use of volunteers in delivering services, involving not just adult volunteers as coaches, for example, but youth team members as volunteers to maintain playing fields. Lessons need not stop with winning, losing, or how to play the game, but should extend to learning the rewards of hard work and community responsibility. Mentorships and learning experiences for people of all ages bring residents, workers and business owners into closer contact with each other and contributes to building the personal relationships that make communities strong and healthy.

#### 1.4 Minneapolis will encourage activities that rely on coordinated programming and facilities use with community partners in the volunteer, nonprofit and private sectors.

#### Implementation Steps

Extend after-hours programming in public institutions, including parks, schools and libraries, to serve a range of family and resident needs and schedules.

Engage volunteers in the provision of programming and maintenance of facilities required for expanded services.

Support and encourage local institutions' participation in neighborhood volunteer programs.

Support and expand existing mentorship programs that increase participation and collaboration among youth, elders, families and children in the community.

#### responding to community interests

The activities and special events in Minneapolis that respond to resident interests are as diverse as the population itself. Supporting the diversity of activities is an important priority for the well-being of the community, yet maintaining the breadth of events is a challenge that can only be successful with the participation of many different partners in the public, private and non-profit sectors. This chapter focuses on community-based arts and youth activities only as examples, knowing that many people are motivated by specific interests outside of those mentioned here. The chapters on Leisure and Culture and Learning provide other examples of programs, events and facilities that serve to bring residents together, whether for a softball game, a concert at Lake Harriet, a rainy afternoon at the library or the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, or a special event at the Target Center.

#### the arts and community pride

"the arts build bridges in a community"

The arts community in Minneapolis has established a long tradition of grassroots arts activity, and is nationally recognized for the dynamism and creativity of arts-related events in the city. Minneapolis' arts community has thrived on its ever-increasing cultural plurality, and some of our most vibrant cultural resources are based in the city's neighborhoods. From Northeast Minneapolis, where close to 20 buildings house almost 300 working artists, to the West Bank Theatre district, to the cultural festivals such as Mayday and Crepescule staged in Powderhorn Park, arts organizations have enriched community life in Minneapolis by providing learning experiences, entertainment, creative inspiration, economic benefits and cultural understanding to patrons and participants alike. (See Map 1.1.9)

Minneapolis' public libraries have also contributed to a better appreciation and understanding of the arts at the community level. Providing access to learning experiences about arts activities and sponsoring exhibits at community libraries has enabled many people to approach the arts from first-hand experience. From youthoriented mural programs to community-based cultural celebrations involving music and dance, to street fairs and performance festivals, the arts bring color, energy, ideas, and emotions to the daily lives of residents. Some neighborhood-based arts activities have positioned themselves to raise awareness and stimulate discussion around social issues such as racism, violence, and community solidarity. People from all walks of life look to the arts as a pivotal tool in strengthening communities by building bridges of understanding, revitalizing neighborhood appearances and illustrating a community's proud cultural heritage. Arts activities build wide audiences, crossing neighborhood boundaries and welcoming diverse people who share a common interest.

### 1.5 Minneapolis will promote neighborhood-based arts activities.

#### Implementation Steps

Improve collaboration and coordination of arts programming with established private arts organizations, local neighborhood groups and public facilities such as the Minneapolis Public Libraries.

Support citywide and neighborhood-based cultural celebrations.

Encourage the work of neighborhood-based arts programs that strengthen the relationship between the arts and the environment.

Promote neighborhood arts as a neighborhood economic development tool, with business plans that can be tested and evaluated.

Expand youth opportunities and exposure to the arts in Minneapolis.

Increase support for the arts as a means of encouraging youth to participate in safe activities that encourage self-expression and bridge generational, cultural or ethnic gaps.

Coordinate and facilitate city involvement in neighborhood-based arts activities.

## youth development & intergenerational connections

Providing a positive, supportive environment for children and youth is the most critical responsibility we shoulder as a community. Young people growing up in Minneapolis, like their counterparts in cities all across the nation, face major challenges. It will take a sustained effort from everyone, including parents, teachers, city leaders, youth workers, businesses, neighbors and religious leaders to provide youth with the assets and advantages they need to grow up safely and successfully. Providing a community context for learning how to successfully make one's way in the world is essential to each young person's success; the process of learning how to do this requires a network of others to educate, train, shelter, nurture, finance, assist and mentor youth.

"Strong vital prospering youth are not born. They are raised by a community of people who provide the essential building blocks of development for young people."

Youth programming that is organized and based from the neighborhood offers learning, skill building and creative opportunities with peers and elders. It also offers opportunities for better understanding between elders and youth. Unique activities, such as the Green Chair arts project or the Urban Mural project, teach kids new skills or spark a flint of interest in new experiences. Personal contact with a participating artist or tradesperson may inspire a young person to consider their future in new terms. As youth donate their time and energy to neighborhood-specific activities like mural projects or community gardening, they begin to cultivate respect from those same neighbors as others experience the positive and artistic contribution young people can make to their community. Youth initiatives need increased citizen involvement, both in assisting specific program initiatives or in shaping long-range planning for youth agencies.

## 1.6 Minneapolis will promote community-based initiatives in youth programming.

#### Implementation Steps

Emphasize leisure, recreational and educational programming that offers positive, community-based experiences to youth.

Work with a range of agencies to establish asset-building goals for Minneapolis' youth.

Create programs and opportunities for older youth to build relationships with younger children through service projects, volunteering, mentoring, tutoring, baby-sitting or other initiatives.

Manage the Police Athletic League to foster mutual respect between youths and police through athletic and recreational activities.

#### Search Institute's Assets for Youth Development

	T / 1 /
External Assets	Internal Assets
1. Family support	1. Achievement
	motivation
2. Parent(s) as social	2. Educational
resource	aspiration
3. Parent communication	3. School performance
4. Other adult resources	4. Homework
5. Other adult	5. Values helping people
communication	
6. Parent involvement in	6. Is concerned about
schooling	world hunger
7. Positive school climate	7. Cares about people's
	feelings
8. Parental Standards	8. Values sexual
	restraint
9. Parental discipline	9. Assertiveness skills
10. Parental monitoring	10. Decision-making
	skills
11. Time at home	11. Friendship making
	skills
12. Positive peer influence	12. Planning skills
13. Involved in music	13. Self-esteem
14. Involved in school extra	14. Positive view of
curricular activities	personal future.
15. Involved in community	
organizations or	
activities	
16. Involved in place of	
worship	

#### investments in community well-being

The bonds that hold a community together often take root in a common history. Almost 100 years after the fact, history begins to repeat itself here in Minneapolis. The ethnic and cultural profile of Minneapolis' population has changed radically in the last fifteen years.

Minneapolis, throughout the 1880s, experienced changes to the city's demographics at the same scale and intensity as witnessed in the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s. At the end of the last century, Minneapolis, the 'Mill City', was a city of immigrants. Most of those newcomers immigrated to Minnesota in search of improved economic opportunity for their families; others fled persecution and oppression in their homelands. The city was experiencing a great economic 'boom' at the end of the century, recovering from the recession of the 1880s and riding the crest of prosperity and growth surging around the busy warehouses and mills of Minneapolis. Most people who arrived on the city's doorstep at that time shared the same basic experiences and tribulations as today's immigrants. They faced the same obstacles in the form of learning an unfamiliar language, adapting to the climate and finding a job that paid well enough to support their families.

1.1.4 The Minneapolis Plan

<sup>&</sup>quot;respect diversity and challenge discrimination"

#### 1.7 Minneapolis will recognize and celebrate its history.

#### Implementation Steps

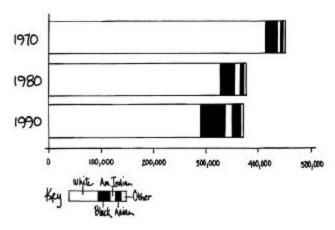
Continue to designate buildings, sites and districts as local heritage preservation sites.

Provide educational activities to encourage citizens to understand the city's history and rich traditions.

Incorporate heritage preservation at the earliest stage of planning for new development and neighborhood revitalization

Encourage new developments to retain historic structures, incorporating them into new development rather than demolishing them.

#### Minneapolis has become more ethnically diverse



source: John Adams & Barbara Van Drasek, Minneapolis/St. Paul: People, Places & Public Life

Minneapolis, the busiest urban center in the Upper Midwest at the end of the last century, just as it is now, continues to offer immigrants shelter and the comforts of familiar goods, services and traditions while they adapt and integrate themselves into the new culture they encounter in America. Since the early 1980s, ethnic diversity in Minneapolis has been increasing rapidly. Recent waves of immigration have brought people to the city from Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe and Latin America. As people adopt Minneapolis as a new home, strengthening the ties that bind a community together becomes a shared effort. Yet, a chain or link of community relationships is only as strong as its weakest link. As both the region and the city continue to grow and become more ethnically and culturally diverse, the metropolitan community as a whole must directly address issues of discrimination and the concentration of households of color living in poverty. Discrimination, in its many forms, is a continuing problem in our community, as it is elsewhere in the nation. Enforcement of fair housing laws, and the defense of protected classes in the workforce and educational settings is an important effort the city must continue to maintain. Discrimination on the basis of affectional preference, age (18+), race, religion, public assistance status, gender, Vietnam era veteran, marital status, national origin, ancestry, color or disability is prohibited by law and will be enforced. The health and welfare of our community demands respect for diversity in all its forms through the development and implementation of all public policies.

1.8 Minneapolis will take steps to eliminate discrimination against protected classes and promote a wider understanding of the value of diversity in our community.

#### Implementation Steps

Require that all city policies challenge discrimination of any type in the workplace, the housing market and the educ ational system.

Follow and promote the Minneapolis Principles of Conduct Against Prejudice and Racism, outlined below:

I commit to follow these principles and work for their adoption in every organization in which I am a member:

- Take steps to understand people of different cultures and races, and to discover and resolve the sources of my negative assumptions and fears.
- Correct my own and others' racially insensitive behavior and language, such as jokes and stereotyping.
- Welcome people of different cultures, races and abilities into my neighborhood.
- Make every effort to ensure that decision-making and policy groups represent the diversity of people affected by the groups' decisions.
- Make sure that institutions, organizations, neighborhoods, and the workplace sponsor events that represent the cultural richness and history of Minneapolis.
- Have and support hiring practices that are free of bias, weed out candidates who are biased, and achieve an employee group which reflects, at all levels, the diversity of the available workforce.
- Provide human resource development programs which include diversity training for all members or employees, promote only racially and culturally unbiased people, offer equal advancement opportunities, and actively assist persons of color in their commitment to success.
- Use cultural and racial inclusivity as a factor in making decisions about the products I purchase, where I buy them, where I invest funds and choose to make contributions.
- Offer services, programs, and products (e.g. educational, industrial) which reflect and are sensitive to the diversity of the customers or clients.
- Make sure formal communications, such as news releases, reports, and advertising reflect the diversity of the community and do not perpetuate inaccurate generalizations and slurs directed at any group of people.

Perform intake and referral services for persons believing they have been discriminated against with respect to fair housing rights and conduct appropriate investigations for such discrimination charges.

Manage fair housing contracts with Legal Aid, Fair Housing Center and Urban Coalition, providing assistance and information as needed in making presentations to consumer and provider groups.

## Protected classes & anti-discrimination laws

- · Affectional preference
- Age (18+)
- Race
- Religion
- · Public assistance status
- Gender including sex harassment & pregnancy
- Vietnam era veteran
- · Marital status
- · National origin
- Ancestry
- · Color
- · Disability

Minneapolis Affirmative Action Division

# safety and security are the foundation of livable neighborhoods

Watching over physical safety and security in city neighborhoods has been a traditional function of government. Every citizen wants peace, quiet, safety and security in their home as fundamental features of city living. Every neighborhood merits the same degree of protection and investment in its physical infrastructure and safety features.

Fear and the perception of crime shake the concept of the city's livability at least as much as the actual incidence of crime impacts residents, workers and visitors. Media images and simplistic headlines have occasionally used broad brushstrokes to describe the city as a place in distress, beset by violence that touches every aspect of residents' lives. Yet perceptions of safety throughout the community and residents' fear of crime vary widely.

Community-based crime prevention in Minneapolis is crucial to preserving a sense of safety and security in city neighborhoods. CCP/SAFE and Block Club efforts are bolstered by a strengthening of enforcement and prosecution efforts on the part of the city and Hennepin County. Events such as National Night Out bring neighbors together to support each other's crime prevention efforts. When residents of all ages take over the streets for a summer's night of socializing with their neighbors, residents are encouraged by the progress they make in enriching their quality of life.

# 1.9 Minneapolis will work to enhance the appeal of city living by improving residents' actual and perceived sense of safety and security.

#### **Implementation Steps**

Develop and implement strategies for improving safety in communities through CCP/SAFE by organizing and training citizens, providing police response to local crime concerns and mitigating problems at addresses with a history of repeat police calls. Direct the Police Department to:

- Continue to respond to emergency and non-emergency calls for service, apprehend offenders, prevent and deter crime, investigate and gather evidence at crime scenes, and maintain civil order.
- Continue to provide proactive response to specific neighborhood crime problems targeting gangs, drugs, guns and prost tution.
- Continue to use existing patrol by foot, squad cars, bikes, and horse programs, and the canine unit.
- Continue to conduct personal safety and drug awareness education for school children.

Organized, well-connected citizen groups work as equal partners with law enforcement agents at the community level in Minneapolis. The greatest success in developing proactive strategies about promoting safety in city neighborhoods originates from within the community. Organized community-based actions directed at improving safety connect people with a shared commitment to making their neighborhoods peaceful and livable environments. From the petitioning and organizing activities of block clubs to increasing community-based patrols of the Minneapolis Police Department, the coordination of activities shared among sworn officers, civilians, residents and neighborhood organizations is the key to staying on top of what happens 'on the street' in the city.

# 1.10 Minneapolis will continue to support community-based initiatives to assure safety and to prevent crime in neighborhoods.

#### **Implementation Steps**

Support community crime prevention activities in the neighborhoods.

Continue to develop the Safe Schools/Safe Parks/Safe Areas initiative to provide safety in the school buildings and on school grounds.

Assign more officers to beat patrols, bike patrols and mounted patrols as a regular function of the Police Department, to improve community interaction with police officers.

Work with local media to more accurately report criminal events and trends as well as ongoing prevention efforts.

The effectiveness of these broad, community-based measures must be complemented by police and prosecution initiatives aimed at improving crime prevention and law enforcement. The number of sworn officers in the ranks of the police force is a comprehensive part of the organizational strength the city brings to bear on criminal activity. Strategic thinking about resource allocation and a sharing of information between different jurisdictions, such as Hennepin County, is also tremendously important in using human, financial and physical resources most effectively. The sharing of expertise and skills continues to be extremely important in providing the most effective law enforcement methods possible.

Finally, intensifying prosecution efforts and securing a higher rate of convictions rests on a committed partnership with Hennepin County and the exploration of alternative sentencing strategies for certain offenses, such as sentence-to-serve and workhouse programs. Creating specific tools (such as the Drug Court established by Hennepin County and the City of Minneapolis in January of 1997) to respond to particular offenses has provided prosecution and sentencing with stiffer penalties for certain offenses, reflecting the idea that the consequences of engaging in criminal activity are serious and certain to be applied.

### 1.11 Minneapolis will intensify law enforcement and secure more convictions for criminal offenses.

#### **Implementation Steps**

1.1.6 The Minneapolis Plan

Intensify the enforcement of existing laws and regulations in order to decrease criminal activity.

Work with Hennepin County on increasing prosecutions and securing convictions.

Work with the criminal justice system to secure appropriate convictions.

Ensuring that public safety infrastructure meets the needs of citizens is an equally important factor in improving the 'peace of mind' equation that makes city living appealing to residents. The condition and adequacy of street lighting, police and firefighting facilities are of great priority to the city's long-term livability. Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) is a way of thinking about buildings and open spaces that encourages law enforcement officials, architects and developers to make urban areas safer and more secure for people using them. One of its most important components is the need to maximize surveillance, from buildings to parking lots, houses to the street, or schools to playgrounds. It also focuses on lighting, building layout and open space configurations, among other aspects (see the City Form chapter for more information on CPTED). (See Maps 1.1.5 - 1.1.8)

## 1.12 Minneapolis will ensure that public safety infrastructure adequately meets residents' needs.

#### Implementation Steps

Plan and provide for the necessary resources, personnel, equipment, training and the proper direction of these resources so that basic fire and emergency medical services can be effectively delivered to citizens

Dispatch police and fire resources to emergency and non-emergency scenes.

Provide full service police precinct stations, assembly locations and smaller "cop shops" in commercial areas where a police presence is needed to deter crime.

Locate fire stations throughout the city within a four minute or less response time, to minimize fire loss and expedite rescue and emergency medical service.

Provide fire training facilities such as a fire training tower and similar facilities.

Provide voice and data radio communications that meet the expanding needs of fire and police.

Assure that new developments and renovation of existing structures adhere to the principles of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED).

Improve public safety infrastructure by evaluating existing street lighting standards to determine if current standards are adequate to today's safety needs.

Develop street lighting standards in the city according to the following criteria: Adequacy of light output, glare control, capital costs and energy efficiency within the context of public safety, aesthetics, neighborhood livability and economic development.

#### healthy citizens make a strong community

A healthy community is one of the most important investments in the city's future well being. Promoting the overall health of the community pays off in the long term; though the results may not be seen immediately, the investment in creating and maintaining healthy habits makes itself evident as the population ages from childhood to youth to adulthood. The city has long played an advocacy role in promoting good health among citizens and offering services and programs that enrich the physical, mental and emotional health of residents. One of the approaches to delivering

health care traditionally supported by the city has been school-based clinics. School-based clinics are a first-rate resource for ensuring the healthy development of children, and also function as one of the most effective means of addressing health needs of families as a whole. Yet school-based clinics are not the only way to deliver health services to residents. As the city continues its role in providing health services, other arrangements may be made to ensure that families of students enrolled in the public schools receive essential care and health education.

## 1.13 Minneapolis will protect and improve residents' health by preventing disease, disability and violence.

#### Implementation Steps

Increase immunization rates for children.

Reduce the risks of HIV infection through education, prevention and treatment.

Address alcohol, tobacco and other substance abuse through education and counseling.

Promote the social, mental and physical wellbeing of adolescents through education, counseling and preventative care.

Reduce violence and the psychological effects of violent trauma through education and counseling.

Improve response time to complaints about public health nuisances.

Provide clinical and health promotion services in school-based clinic settings and health promotion and classroom education services in schools served by designated clinics.

#### putting it together

The true strength of any community derives from the success of small-scale, public, every day life interactions. These interactions, between neighbors and acquaintances who share the same block, or visit the same park, or encounter each other at local restaurants and stores, build a web of trust and familiarity. In a city, a place of wideopen choices and rich opportunity, people cultivate friendships and acquaintances selectively. Neighbors and neighborhoods, on the other hand, are bound together because of their shared geography. Daily life offers many opportunities for residents to come together. These shared aspects of daily life convey certain rights to each resident, but also demand certain responsibilities of them. The right to privacy as well as the freedom to develop varying degrees of contact with people around them are "deeply cherished and jealously guarded gifts of great-city life", as Jane Jacobs has written. The obligations a citizen owes to his or her community materializes at election times, at block-level meetings held to address neighborhood issues, and at city-wide gatherings convened to respond to challenges that face the entire community. The rewards of honoring these obligations surface in the form of economic confidence, neighborhood stability, care and respect for natural resources, reinvestment in community institutions and a highly regarded overall quality of life. These rewards are what build an authentic sense of community in Minneapolis.